

coast; as one goes inland into the forest the air is filled with the spicy fragrance of wild heliotrope. On the other hand, the Great Smokies have several plants that are more objectionable than *Lantana pedunculata*. I need only mention various species of carrion-flower belonging to the genus *Smilax*, or the purple trillium (*T. erectum*), which, in Dr. Small's Manual of the Southeastern Flora, is given the name "Stinking-Willie." Thus, on the basis of numbers of offending species, the Galapagos Islands should smell much better than the Great Smokies, but I doubt if that is actually the case.

The book is written for a popular audience and plant geography is one of the most difficult subjects to handle. On page 178, after discussing several species that have their counterparts in the Appalachians and Eastern Asia, Peattie correctly states that "in vain would you seek them in Europe or the western United States." But he also adds, "The same is true of such familiar wild flowers as jack-in-the-pulpit, Dutchman's-breeches, pipsissewa, winter-green, shooting star, and many others. It is true too of ferns like our dainty little walking fern, the stately cinnamon fern, our maidenhair and the ostrich fern." Now it happens that all of the plants mentioned in the first sentence, with the exception of the jack-in-the-pulpit, are well-known on the Pacific Coast, and the genera represented by Dutchman's-breeches (*Dicentra*), winter-green (*Gaultheria*), and shooting-star (*Dodecatheon*) are especially complex in that region. Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*) has always been a well-recognized plant of Europe. As to the ferns, the maidenhair occurs from Alaska to southern California; the ostrich fern was originally described from Europe and is also on the Pacific Coast.

The book has splendid pictures of scenery and people; of these illustrations the pictures of rhododendrons facing page 186 are perhaps the most enticing, if a choice must be made.—HENRY K. SVENSON, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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DOES CNICUS BENEDICTUS PERSIST IN OUR FLORA?—At various times the Blessed Thistle is reported in lists of local plants. It appears somewhat sporadically on rubbish or in cultivated ground but there is real doubt whether in the northeastern quarter of the United States it is persistent. The only New England material I can find is a series of sheets, all made up of fragments of one individual, collected by the late Walter Deane on waste ground in Cambridge, in 1885. That particular spot, long known, as dubbed by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, as the "tin cañon" was an old excavation which received much rubbish from the Harvard Botanic Garden. The plant appeared in some abundance in April, 1938, in a newly seeded clover-field near Petersburg, Virginia. In subsequent years it was not there. Is there evidence of its becoming established with us?—M. L. FERNALD.